

Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road Groton, CT 06340-4394 Town Clerk 860-441-6640 Town Manager 860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Christine Conley, Representatives Karin Adams, Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joseph Baril, Alicia Bauer, Jordan Brayman, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, John A. Espada, Robert M. Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Meyer, Douglas Monaghan, Karen Morton, Kathy Neugent, Scott Newsome, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Shawn Powers, Richard Semeraro, Bill Smith, Judith Strode, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Fred Turnbull, Patricia Wagner, Lori A. Watrous, Ivy R. Williams and Jonathan E. Wilson

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

7:00 PM

Groton Senior Center

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Christine Conley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. 32 members were present and a quorum was declared.

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Rep. Adams, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Espada, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Heede, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Longino, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Morton, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Powers, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smith, Rep. Strode, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Turnbull, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Williams, Rep. Wilson and Rep. Brayman Members Absent: Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Luck, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Parker and Rep. Pasqualini Jr.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Human Resources Director Robert Zagami, Registrars of Voters Kristen Venditti and David Rose, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Graner, Board of Education Chairman Kim Shepardson Watson, Board of Education members, Town Mayor Rita Schmidt, Town Councilors, City Councilors, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag.

C. CALL OF THE MEETING

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher read the Call of the Meeting.

2015-0021 Annual RTM Budget Meeting

RESOLUTION SETTING RTM BUDGET MEETING DATE ON THE FYE 2016 ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET

WHEREAS, Section 9.3.1 of the Groton Town Charter requires that the Town Council determine the date for the annual budget meeting of the Representative Town Meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, Newtown Road, Groton, Connecticut.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Moderator Christine Conley explained the conduct to be observed during the citizen comments and clarified the responsibilities of the RTM in regard to approving the budget. She stated that citizen comments will be limited to ten minutes.

Todd Brady, 17 Water Street, Mystic, spoke in support of Mystic & Noank Library. He urged the

RTM to approve this year's funding request.

Sharon Carlee, 3 Park Place, Mystic, stated that the Mystic & Noank Library provides various programs and contributes to the quality of life in the Town of Groton for all ages.

Bill Smith, 255 Neptune Drive, Groton, asked his fellow RTM members to work together to limit spending this year to no more than a 2.2% increase, further trimming the Town Council budget an additional \$351K.

Joan Steinford, 32 Valley Road, Groton, supports Groton Libraries and was concerned about budget cuts made by the Town Council.

Clare Rogers, 138 Payer Lane, Mystic, spoke about the after school programs and the growing number of special need students. She supports the 2.7% increase in the BOE budget.

Lian Obrey, 141 Shennecossett Pkwy, Groton, thanked the Finance Committee for their support to restore the City Police and Highway pending arbitration funding.

Rosanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, Mystic, made various suggestions for reduction to Town Operating and BOE budgets.

Scott Aument, 127 Rogers Road, Groton, supports combining services and a reduction in the BOE budget.

Leah Kennedy, 152 Cedar Road, Mystic, supports the 2.7% increase in the BOE budget.

Tina McLaughlin, 15 Cove Street, Noank, voiced her concern that class size will increase if BOE budget not approved.

Town Councilor Bruce Flax, 632 Noank Road, Mystic, explained the Town Council's rationale for the budget.

Andrea Wollensak, 10 Conrad Street, Mystic, supports the Mystic & Noank Library and the various programs it provides.

Town Councilor Geneieve Cerf, 17 Crescent Street, Groton, spoke in support of various items in the budget.

Kevin Trejo, 536 Shennecossett Road, Groton, requested that RTM members ask more appropriate questions to Department Heads before approving any funds.

City Councilor Keith Hedrick, 166 Shenneccossett Pkwy, Groton, supports Community Policing.

Rep. Merritt arrived at 7:25 p.m. 33 members present.

Rep. Parker arrived at 8:03 p.m. 34 members present.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Reps. Deane-Shinbrot, Neugent and Pasqualini notified the Town Clerk that they were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Rep. Delores Harrell submitted her resignation to the Town Clerk after representing the 1st District of the Town of Groton for the last 30 years.

Rep. Wilson disclosed that he is an unpaid volunteer member of the Mystic River Ambulance

Association and the City of Groton Fire Department. This is to inform the RTM that he fully expects to participate in the discussion and subsequent voting on this account.

Ann Shipley, 48 Riverview Avenue, Noank, notified the RTM that she supports full funding for the Mystic and Noank Library.

Dave and Sandie Scott, 191 Pequot Avenue, Mystic, notified the RTM that they support full funding of the Mystic and Noank Library.

F. BUDGET UPDATE - Town Manager & Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Graner talked about the FY16 Proposed Board of Education Budget. He highlighted the budget history, FY16 Budget savings & reductions and the Capital Improvement Plan Revision.

A recess was called at 8:28 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:47 p.m.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman Granatosky read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 27, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Acount 1001 - Legislative Policy

A motion for \$42,933 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Rep. Watrous disclosed that she is a Town employee working in the Town Assessor's office.

Acount 1003 - Voter Registration

A motion for \$147,836 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$147,337 was made by Rep. Ambroise, seconded by Rep. Adams.

The amendment removes funds for computer replacement.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$147,587 was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Ambroise.

The amendment removes 50% of funds for computer replacement.

The vote on the amendment of \$147,587 failed 14 in favor, 20 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Adams, Ambroise, Espada, Garcia, Loughlin, Marley, McDermott, Meyer, Morton, Smith, Strode, Swindell, Watrous and Conley.)

The vote on the amendment of \$147,337 failed 6 in favor, 28 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Amroise, Espada, Garcia, Morton, Smith and Strode.)

The vote on \$147,836 carried 29 in favor, 5 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Ambroise, Espada, Morton, Smith and Strode.)

Account 1005 - Town Clerk

A motion for \$329,379 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Account 1006 - Legal Services

A motion for \$450,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

The vote on \$450,000 carried 33 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Marley.)

Account 1010 - Executive Management

A motion for \$420,983 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The Town Manager answered numerous questions on why some line items increased and others decreased with an overall decrease of 4.2%.

In response to a question from Rep. Newsome, the Town Manager stated that there is documentation for each line item in the account and are available for viewing.

The vote on \$420,983 carried 29 in favor, 2 oppposed, 3 abstentions. (Opposed: Reps. Ambroise and Loughlin. Abstaining Reps. Brayman, Marley and Parker.)

At 9:41 p.m., the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Budget Session - Monday, May 4, 2015

Moderator Christine Conley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 29 members were present and a quorum was declared.

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Brayman, Rep. Espada, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Heede, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Morton, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Parker, Rep. Powers, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smith, Rep. Strode, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Turnbull, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Williams and Rep. Wilson.

Members Absent: Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Longino, Rep. Luck, Rep. Marley, Rep. Pasqualini and Rep. Swindell.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Deane-Shinbrot, DeMatto, Longino and Pasqualini notified the Town Clerk of their absense.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Parks and Recreation Director Mark Berry, Planning Director Jonathan Reiner, Director of Human Resources Robert Zagami, Manager of Inspection Services Kevin Quinn, Director of the Groton Public Library Betty Anne Reiter, Director of the Mystic Noank Library Lois Hiller, Senior Center Supervisor Mary Jo Riley, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Svencer read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 21, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Svencer and seconded by Rep. Powers and so voted unanimously.

Acoount 1064 - Parks & Recreation

Repsonding to Rep. Merritt, Director Berry explained the decrease in the Materials & Supplies account was due to the non-funding of maintaining the fields at Fitch Middle School. He added that this will be addressed again in next year's budget.

Rep. Smith feels that the personnel expenses are high and would like a comparison of salaries to

other communities.

Repsonding to Rep. Powers, Director Berry reported that 10 employees maintain 151 acres of land.

Rep. Wilson asked the difference between regular full time personnel and part time personnel and was referred to page 329 of the budget book for those definitions.

Responding to Rep. Newsome, Director Berry cited that some examples of the Leadership/Gen Suppt account were full time salaries and professional development.

A motion for \$1,757,951 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Garcia and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Open Space Management Plan

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Powers.

The vote on \$0 carried 28 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Monaghan.)

Capital Item - Golf Course Improvement Plan

A motion for \$50,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Meyer

Responding to Rep. Newsome's question of how the amount was computed, Director Berry stated that they have been working with a landscape architect and that it is mainly for bunker repair.

The vote on \$50,000 carried 27 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Smith and Rep. Brayman.)

Capital Item - Park Improvement/ADA Compliance

A motion for \$60,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

Items discussed were the reconstruction of a stonewall in the Deerfield Subdivision and the creation of a Sand Replenishment and Beach Management Program.

Responding to Rep. Granatosky, the Town Manager noted that the Town of Groton would have no recourse on the contractor who constructed the stonewall some 20 years ago.

The vote on \$60,000 carried 28 in favor, 1 oppose. (Opposed: Rep. Parker.)

Account - 2010 - Shennecossett Golf Course Fund

Responding to Rep. Parker, the Town Manager clarified that the dollars included in the Contingency Account were for anticipated increases due to the upcoming union contract negotiations.

A motion for \$1,210,400 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Neugent and so voted unanimously.

Account 3240 - Recreation & Senior Activities

A motion for \$1,043,831 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Garcia and so voted unanimously.

A recess was called at 8:04 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:23 p.m.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairman Semeraro read the minutes of the meeting held on April 28, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Smith and so voted unanimously.

Account 1063 - Groton Public Library

A motion for \$1,677,603 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Hubbard and so voted unanimously.

Account 3310 - Connecticard Fund

Responding to Rep. Granatsky, Director Reiter confirmed that Groton Public Library will be able to apply for grant money next year.

A motion for \$46,366 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Smith and so voted unanimously.

Account 10650 - Mystic & Noank Library

A motion for \$188,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Morton.

The vote for \$188,000 carried 28 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining Rep. Massett.)

Account 10651 - Bill Memorial Libray

A motion for \$20,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.

Account 1046 - Planning & Development Services

A motion for \$1,253,918 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Adams.

Director Reiner responded to numerous questions about the department and personnel. He mentioned that the Economic and Community Development functions would merge and that the department would not be increasing staff but will be changing the roles and responsibilities of certain positions. He added that the current Zoning and Subdivision Regulations are in need of re-writing.

Responding to Rep. Bauer, Director Reiner confirmed that there will be advertising to promote Groton but the main focus will be on helping existing business. He continued to say small business is big business in Groton and that we are fortunate to have Pfizer and Electric Boat.

Responding to Rep. McDermott, Director Reiner acknowledged that the Airport was an asset but there are no plans for it in this years budget.

Responding to Rep. Wilson, the Director stated that if outside consultants are needed the cost would be between \$15,000 - \$20,000.

Responding to Rep. Monaghan, Director Reiner noted that the anticipated number of 5 violations corrected through forced compliance was contingency planning.

The vote on \$1,253,918 carried 28 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Turnbull.)

Capital Item - Economic Assistance Fund

A motion for \$100,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

Responding to Rep. Newsome, the Town Manager cited that this fund encourages developers with help and that all Economic Development grants require sufficient funding. He added that the Town

should fund this account to between 750K and 1 Million dollars.

The vote on \$100,000 carried 27 in favor, 1 oppose, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Rep. Garcia. Abstaining: Rep. Parker.)

Capital Item - Open Space Acquisition

A motion for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Heede.

Responding to Rep. Wilson, Rep. Semeraro stated that the committee feels that the increase is justified for puchasing land that we do not want developed and is good for the community. The Town Manager added that grants for this account are a 75% match.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$10,000 was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Garcia.

Rep. Wilson believes that busines lost in past years was not due to open space acquisition.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$15,000 was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Granatosky.

The vote on the amendment of \$10,000 failed 13 in favor, 15 oppose, 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Adams, Conley, Espada, Garcia, Granatosky, McDermott, Morton, Neugent, Newsome, Parker, Power, Watrous and Wilson. Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)

The vote on \$25,000 failed 16 in favor, 12 oppose, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Adams, Conley, Espada, Garcia, Hubbard, McDermott, Morton, Newsome, Parker, Powers, Watrous and Wilson. Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)

A vote of 2/3 majority is needed to increase amount approved by Town Council.

The vote on the amendment of \$15,000 carried 20 in favor, 8 oppose, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Adams, Bauer, Garcia, Hubbard, McDermott, Morton, Parker and Wilson. Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)

At 8:55 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Budget Session - Thursday, May 7, 2015

Moderator Christine Conley called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. 31 members were present and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Deane-Shinbrot and DeMatto notified the Town Clerk of their absence.

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Reps. Adams, Baril, Bauer, Brayman, Espada, Granatosky, Garcia, Heede, Hubbard, Longino, Loughlin, Marley, Massett, McDermott, Merritt, Meyer, Monaghan, Morton, Neugent, Newsome, Pasqualini, Powers, Semeraro, Smith, Strode, Svencer, Turnbull, Wagner, Watrous and Wilson.

Members Absent: Reps. Ambroise, Deane-Shinbrot, Dematto, Luck, Parker, Swindell and Williams.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Acting Police Chief Steve Smith, Police Captain Steve Sinagra, City Police Chief Thomas Davoren, Human Resource Director Robert Zagami, City Mayor Marion Galbraith, Christopher Clarkin from Mystice Ambulance and George Law from Groton Ambulance, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

The Moderator announced that the regular RTM meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 13,

2015 at 7:30 p.m. with the budget session to follow.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chariman Pasqualini read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held April 22, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Baril and so voted unanimously.

Account 1024 - Public Safety

A motion for \$6,657,328 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Adams.

Reps Ambroise and Williams arrived at 7:24 p.m. 33 members present.

Responding to Rep. Newsome, Chief Smith stated that part time employees in animal control were leaving to surrounding towns for full time positions. Eliminating 3 part time positions and hiring another full time position (Asst. Animal Control Officer) as was done in the past will hopefully maintain stability in that department.

Rep. Granatosky asked about the savings of eliminating 3 part time positions and hiring 1 full time position. Chief Smith responded that there is no savings.

Responding to Rep. Neugent, the Town Manager stated the decrease in account 10240 was due to the Police Chief position not being filled.

The vote on \$6,657,328 carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (continued)

Chairman Granatosky read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 23, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Wilson.

Motion to amend minutes was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Brayman.

Minutes were approved as amended.

Account 10900 - City of Groton Police

A motion for \$2,317,137 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The vote on \$2,317,137 carried 27 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Pasqualini, Morton, Semeraro, Newsome and McDermott. Abstaining: Rep. Adams.)

Account 10901 - City of Groton Highway Maintenance

A motion for \$1,092,694 as approved by committee was made by Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

Rep. Parker arrived at 7:35 p.m. 34 members present. Rep. Parker disclosed that she is an employee of the City of Groton.

Responding to several RTM members who voiced their concerns over having no authority on this account, the Town Manager confirmed that based on prior legal opinions from Town Attorney's the RTM can not change the figures in this account.

The vote on \$1,092,694 failed 13 in favor, 19 oppposed, 2 abstentions. (In favor: Reps. Conley,

Monaghan, Morton, Neugent, Newsome, Pasqualini, Semeraro, Smith, Strode, Svencer, Wagner, Watrous and Wilson. Abstaining: Reps. Adams and Hubbard.)

The Moderator allowed Rep. Wilson to make a motion for the initial amount of \$1,092,694 and was seconded by Rep. Semeraro.

The Town Manager acknowledged that this is a dispute between the Town and the City which will not be resolved in a couple of weeks. The RTM must adopt this budget by May 25, 2015 and the figures in this account can not be changed. He urged RTM members to carry the motion of \$1,092,694

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Baril.

The vote on moving the question failed 20 in favor, 13 oppposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Adams, Ambroise, Bauer, Espada, Garcia, Granatosky, Heede, Hubbard, Massett, Meyer, Monghan, Parker and Turnbull. Abstaining: Rep. Williams.) (Moving the question requires a two-thirds vote.)

The vote on \$1,092,694 carried 18 in favor, 13 oppposed, 3 abstentions. (Opposed: Reps. Ambroise, Bauer, Brayman, Espada, Granatosky, Garcia, Heede, Hubbard, Longino, Massett, Meyer, Parker and Turnbull. Abstaining: Reps. Adams, Marley and Wiliams.)

Account 10904 - City of Groton Street Lighting

A motion for \$113,170 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Account 10905 - Highway Pending Arbitration

A motion for \$830,292 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Ambroise.

The vote on \$830,292 carried 33 in favor. 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Heede.)

Account 10910 - Groton Long Point Police

A motion for \$250,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The vote on \$250,000 carried 31 in favor, 1 oppose, 2 abstentions. (Opposed: Rep. Pasqualini. Abstaining: Reps. Marley and Monaghan.)

Account 10911 - Groton Long Point Highway Maintenance

A motion for \$162,500 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The vote on \$162,500 carried 31 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions. (Opposed: Rep. Ambroise. Abstaining: Reps. Monaghan and Adams.)

Account 10912- Groton Long Point Street Lighting

A motion for \$13,442 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Smith

The vote on \$13,442 carried 33 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Monaghan.)

Total for Account 1091 - Groton Long Point: \$425,942

A recess was called at 8:11 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (continued)

Rep. Pasqualini read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held April 22, 2015.

(Minutes are on file.)

Minutes were approved as read.

Account 10261 - Mystic River Ambulance

A motion for \$40,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Ambroise and so voted unanimously.

Account 10260 - Groton Ambulance

A motion for \$105,951 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Smith.

Responding to Reps. Massett and Wilson, Christopher Clarkin from Mystic River Ambulance and George Law of Groton Ambulance explained the differences in their bundled billing.

The vote on \$105,951 carried unanimously.

Budget Session - Wednesday May 13, 2015

Moderator Christine Conley called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. 32 members were present and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. DeMatto, Garcia and Watrous notified the Town Clerk of their absense.

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Reps. Adams, Ambroise Baril, Brayman, Espada, Granatosky, Heede, Hubbard, Longino, Loughlin, Marley, Massett, McDermott, Merritt, Meyer, Monaghan, Morton, Neugent, Newsome, Parker, Pasqualini, Powers, Semeraro, Smith, Strode, Svencer, Swindell, Turnbull, Wagner, Williams and Wilson.

Members Absent: Reps. Bauer, Deane-Shinbrot, DeMatto, Garcia, Luck and Watrous.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Graner, Board of Education members, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Swindell read the minutes of the meeting held on May 5, 2015. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously. (Minutes are on file.)

Dr. Graner gave a Budget Summary power point presentation. He talked about the Budget History, FY16 Budget Savings & Reductions and the Capital Improvement Plan Revision. He mentioned the need of additional programs, hiring of Social Workers, Special Education Teacher and Mathmatics Specialist. He confirmed the 2.7% increase was mainly due to special education costs. He continued to say that the mission was to maintain high standards, effective class size, curricular and extra curricular programs. He added that keeping up with technology/equipment and providing a safe environment are priorities.

Account 1080 - Education Services

A motion for \$76, 730,239 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

Responding to Rep. Monaghan, Dr. Graner reported that Impact Aide is down due to the Subase not having a physical address. The address of Crystal Lake Road alone is not acceptable. Dr.

Graner is currently in conversation with Congressman Courtney regarding this matter.

Responding to other questions, Dr. Graner stated that reduction of students to Magnet Schools does not warrant reduction in staff. He added that the \$400,000 cut from his initial request came from healthcare.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$75,098,943 was made by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. Adams.

Rep. McDermott stated that residents can not afford the proposed number and this number removes the 2.7% increase.

Rep. Swindell confirmed that the committee voted on the proposed figure primarily because of special education costs and the fact that social workers are needed. He added that the BOE Budget has had 0% increase in the last three years.

Rep. Granatosky called for a Democratic Caucas at 9:56 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:27 p.m.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Granatosky.

The vote on moving the question carried 21 in favor, 11 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Adams, Ambroise, Espada, Hubbard, Longino, Loughlin, McDermott, Newsome, Swindell and Wilson.)

The vote on \$\$75,098,943 failed 9 in favor, 23 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Adams, DeMatto, Hubbard, Marley, McDermott, Morton, Pasqualini, Turnbull and Wilson.)

MOTION TO AMEND to \$76, 225,427 was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini.

Rep. Newsome explained that this was a 1.5% increase and due to Grand List losses this was a fair compromise.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$75,914,591 was made by Rep. Adams, seconded by Rep. Hubbard.

Rep. Adams explained this figure was a compromise of the main number and the first amended number.

The vote on 75, 914,591 failed 7 in favor, 25 oppposed. (In favor: Reps. Adams, Espada, Hubbard, Marley, Morton, Strode and Turnbull.)

The vote on 76,225,427 failed 12 in favor, 20 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Adams, Espada, Hubbard, Longino, Marley, Massett, McDermott, Meyer, Morton, Newsome, Pasqualini and Wilson.)

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Granatosky.

The vote on moving the question failed 18 in favor, 14 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Adams, Ambroise, Espada, Hubbard, Longino, Loughlin, Massett, McDermott, Newsome, Pasqualini, Semeraro, Swindell, Turnbull and Wilson.)
(Moving the question requires a two-thirds vote.)

The vote on \$76,730,239 carried 21 in favor, 11 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Adams, Espada, Hubbard, Loughlin, Massett, McDermott, Morton, Newsome, Pasqualini, Turnbull and Wilson.)

Capital Item - School Design

A motion for \$75,000 as approved by committee was mae by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The vote on \$75,000 carried 30 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps, Baril and Turnbull.)

Capital Item - Asbestos Removal

A motion for \$845,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

Responding to Rep. Morton, the Superintendent explained that the state requires removal of asbestos even if the building is being closed.

Responding to Rep. Smith, the Superintendent clarified that there was a clerical error in the budget book as to the cost of the removal of asbestos.

The vote on \$845,000 carried 31 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Smith.)

Capital Item - Mary Morrison

A motion for \$80,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

Responding to Reps. Smith and Pasqualini, the Town Manager noted that plans and specifications for parking/vehicle access could be done by Town engineers if they were not so busy with other projects.

The vote on \$80,000 failed 6 in favor, 23 oppose 3 abstentions. (In favor: Reps, Baril, Granatosky, Merritt, Massett, Svencer and Williams. Abstaining: Reps. Monaghan, Parker and Swindell.)

A motion for \$0 was made by Rep. Ambroise, seconded by Rep. Smith.

The vote on \$0 carried 27 in favor, 1 opposed, 4 abstentions. (Opposed: Rep. Massett. Abstaining: Reps. Swindell, Monaghan, Merritt and Parker.)

Capital Item - Charles Barnum

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The vote on \$0 carried 29 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions. (Opposed: Rep. Powers. Abstaining: Reps. Merritt and Williams.)

Capital Item - West Side Middle School

 $A\ motion\ for\ \$0\ as\ approved\ by\ committee\ was\ made\ by\ Rep.\ Swindell,\ seconded\ by\ Rep.\ Adams.$

The vote on \$0 carried 31 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)

Capital Item - Claude Chester

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The vote on \$0 carried 31 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)

Capital Item - Cutler Middle School

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The vote on \$0 carried 31 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)

Capital Item - S. B. Butler

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The vote on \$0 carried 31 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)

Capital Item - Fitch High School

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The vote on \$0 carried 31 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)

Capital Item - Pleasant Valley

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The vote on \$0 carried 31 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)

Capital Item - Administration building

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Merritt.

The vote on \$0 carried 31 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)

At 11:05 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Budget Session - Thursday, May 14, 2015

Moderator Christine Conley called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. 25 members were present and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Ambroise, Espada, Garcia, Parker, Pasqualini, Watrous and Williams notified the Town Clerk of their absense.

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Reps. Adams, Baril, Bauer, Brayman, DeMatto, Granatosky, Heede, Longino, Loughlin, Massett, McDermott, Merritt, Meyer, Monaghan, Morton, Neugent, Powers, Semeraro, Smith, Strode, Svencer, Swindell, Turnbull and Wagner. Members Absent: Reps. Ambroise, Deane-Shinbrot, Espada, Garcia, Hubbard, Luck, Marley, Newsome, Parker, Pasqualini, Watrous, Williams and Wilson.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Human Resources Director Robert Zagami, Library Director Betty Anne Reiter, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Probate Judge Nicholas Kepple, Manager Emergency Communications Joseph Sastre, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE (Continued)

Chairman Semeraro read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held April 28, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Baril and so voted unanimously.

Account 10073 - SE CT Probate Court

A motion for \$13,433 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Baril and so voted unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Chairman Heede read the minutes of the meetings held on April 8, April 29 and May 6, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

Rep. Marley arrived at 7:13 p.m. 26 members present.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The vote to approve minutes carried 25 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Monaghan.)

Account 1035 - Publics Works

A motion for \$6,609,159 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

The vote on \$6,609,159 carried 24 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 absstention. (Opposed: Rep. Swindell, Abstaining: Rep. Adams.)

Account 6040 - Fleet Reserve Fund

A motion for \$1,589,985 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Rep. Brayman left at 7:50 p.m. 25 members were present.

Account 2020 - Sewer Operating Fund

A motion for \$6,944,693 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Account 2030 - Solid Waste Fund

A motion for \$2,346,842 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Traffic Signal Replacement and Upgrade

A motion for \$213,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Smith and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Norht Stonington Road Bridge

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Svencer and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Mystic Streetscape - Phase III

A motion for \$75,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Police Station

A motion for \$279,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Town Hall Complex

A motion for \$475,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

The vote on 475,000 carried 23 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Rep. Smith. Abstaining: Rep. DeMatto.)

Capital Item - Groton Public Library

A motion for \$859,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Turnbull as so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Vacant School Properties

A motion for \$160,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Captial Item - Noank Dock

A motion for \$106,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Svencer and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Esker Point Concession Stand

A motion for \$27,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Smith

and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - LED Streetlights

A motion for \$28,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Pump Stations

A motion for \$213,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Treatment Facility

A motion for \$1,106,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Svencer and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - South Road Sewers

A motion for \$30,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Route 117 Sewers

A motion for \$70,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Heede, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

A recess was called at 8:47 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

Rep. Ambroise arrived at 8:55 p.m. 26 members present.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (continued)

Chairman Granatosky read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 27, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Powers and so voted unanimously.

Account 1014 - Emergency Communications

A motion for \$1,416, 216 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

The vote on \$1,416,216 carried 23 in favor, 3 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Ambroise, Smith and Swindell.)

Capital Item - Replacement of UPS - Emergency Communications Center

A motion for \$110,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Account 1012 - Human Resources

A motion for \$332,750 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Adams.

The vote on \$332,750 carried 25 in favor, 1 oppposed. (Opposed: Rep. Ambrosie.)

Account 1013 - Finance Administration

A motion for \$1,403,263 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Account 1070 - Insurance and Claims

A motion for \$577,407 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

The vote on \$577,407 carried 25 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Loughlin.)

Account 1071 - Self Funded Plans

A motion for \$8,611,362 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Ambroise.

Rep. Swindell suggested the RTM agree with the Town Council approved amount on this account.

A motion for \$8,503,514 was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Smith.

The vote on \$8,503,514 carried 15 in favor, 11 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, DeMatto, Granatosky, Loughlin, Massett, Merritt, Monaghan, Morton, Powers, Svencer and Turnbull.)

Account 1074 - Contingency

A motion for \$550,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

The vote on \$550,000 carried 24 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Rep. Ambroise. Abstaining Rep. Adams.)

Account 1077 - Contributions to Other Funds

A motion for \$187,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

Rep. Ambroise feels that fleet funding should be 100% within the departments.

A motion for \$122,000 was made by Rep. Ambroise, seconded by Rep. Massett.

The vote on \$122,000 failed 7 in favor, 19 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Ambroise, Bauer, Longino, Meyer, Smith, Swindell and Turnbull.)

The vote on \$187,000 carried 21 in favor, 5 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Ambroise, Longino, Meyer, Smith and Swindell.)

At 10:08 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Budget Session - Monday, May 18, 2015

Moderator Christine Conley called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. 30 members were present and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Ambroise, Espapa, Newsome and Wagner notified the Town Clerk of their absense.

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Reps. Adams, Baril, Bauer, Brayman, DeMatto, Granatosky, Garcia, Hubbard, Longino, Loughlin, Marley, Massett, McDermott, Merritt, Meyer, Monaghan, Morton, Neugent, Parker, Powers, Semeraro, Smith, Strode, Svencer, Swindell, Turnbull, Watrous, Williams and Wilson.

Members Absent: Reps. Ambroise, Deane-Shinbrot, Espada, Heede, Luck, Newsome, Pasqualini and Wagner.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Human Resources Director Robert Zagami, Human Services Director Marjorie Fondulas, Emergency Communications Manager Joseph Sastre, Steve Mansfield from Ledge Light Health District, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (continued)

Chairman Granatosky read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 27, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Account 1011 - Information Technology

A motion for \$1,018,939 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Computer Technology Acquisition - Software Systems

A motion for \$380,400 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

The vote on \$380,400 carried 29 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Monaghan.)

Capital Item - Upgrade Radio Systems - Town Police

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Adams.

Responding to numerous questions, Manager Sastre confirmed that there are dead zones in the Groton area and that a detailed study needs to be done. He continued to say that the police can not communicate with surrounding towns and that project will be a priority in the future.

A motion for \$100,000 was made by Rep. DeMatto, seconded by Rep. Bauer.

The vote on \$100,000 caried 20 in favor, 10 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Granatosky, Longino, Marley, Meyer, Morton, Parker, Semeraro, Smith, Strode and Wilson.)

Account 6050 - Computer Replacement Fund

A motion for \$125,320 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granastosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE (continued)

Chairman Semeraro read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 28, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Morton and so voted unanimously as amended.

Account 1051 - Human Services

A motion for \$592,424 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Smith and so voted unanimously.

The vote on \$592,424 carried 29 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. Rep.Marley temporarily left the room.

Account 7320 - Human Serv Asst Fund

A motion for \$40,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

Human Services Director Marjorie Fondulas, responding to member's questions, noted that steps are taken to insure that these funds go to Groton residents. Also discussed were unique issues with addressing the needs of the homeless and ways to increase financial support from the public.

The vote on \$40,000 carried unanimously.

Account 10070 - SE CT Council of Governments (SCCOG)

A motion for \$16,349 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Account 10071 - SE CT Enterprise Region (SECTER)

A motion for \$14,041 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Account 10072 - SEAT

A motion for \$93,592 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Total for Account 1007 - Regional Agencies: \$137,415

Account 10073 SE CT Probate Court was approved on May 14, 2015 budget session #5 for \$13,433 with a unanimous vote of 25-0-0.

Account 1054 - Health/Service/Cultural Agencies

The Moderator asked if there was any objection to vote on the total number in this account rather than the individual sub-accounts. Sub-accounts under 1054 include 10540 - Ledge Light Health District - 10541 - VNA (School Health) - 10542 - VNA (Health Promo) - 10544 - Housing Authority -10545 - Service Agencies - 10546 - Cultural Agencies and 10547 Marine Sewage Disposal. There was no objection for this request.

A motion for \$1,656,350 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Meyer.

Rep. Swindell disclosed he was a former contractor and will abstain voting on this account.

Responding to Reps. Smith and Garcia, Steve Mansfield confirmed that Ledge Liight sets the hourly rates and they are as low as they can go. He continued to say that it is a per capita rate that is charged.

Responding to Rep. Monaghan, the Town Manager discussed the process for determining which agencies receive funding.

The vote on \$1,656,350 carried 28 in favor, 1 oppposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Rep. Smith. Abstaining: Rep. Swindell.)

A recess was called at 8:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (continued)

Chairman Granatosky read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 27, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

Motion to approve minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Account 1092 - Fire District Pilot

A motion for \$246,012 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Account 2120 - Revaluation Fund

A motion for \$250,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Account 4010 - Groton Sewer District

A motion for \$835,450 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by

Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Account 2060 - Mumford Cove

A motion for \$21,028 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

Account 1076 - Debt Service

A motion for \$5,183,475 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Smith and so voted unanimously.

Account 5010 - Capital Reserve Fund

The Chair moved \$4,452,400 seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

The vote on \$4,452,400 carried 27 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Meyer and Smith. Abstaining: Rep. Monaghan.)

Account 1075 - Capital Reserve Contribution

The chair moved \$2,723,400 seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

The vote on \$2,723,400 carried 29 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Loughlin.)

H. ADJOURMENT

The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Attest:

Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk Clerk of the RTM

Michael Thorpe, Town Clerk Office Assistant II